

From: CTMCCUNE@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 2:51pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

I am extremely disappointed in the government's proposed settlement of the Microsoft case. The judge found that Microsoft had abused its monopoly power to crush the competition and rig the retail environment to ensure that consumers would have virtually no choice but Microsoft. The proposed settlement barely gives Microsoft a slap on the wrist and does nothing to make the market work as intended: in a free and fair competition.

However, with a Republican administration in charge, I am not surprised that the DOJ chose to "wimp out" and let Microsoft off the hook. The Microsoft settlement, like the Enron debacle, demonstrates that those with big money don't have to play by the same rules as the rest of us. If they contribute enough to the right campaign coffers, and use buzzwords like "free market" and "competition" to cover their dirty deeds, they can usually get government officials to either gut existing regulations and rewrite tax laws to their specifications, or at least look the other way when they break the rules. And this means that big corporations like Microsoft and Enron can get away with almost anything.

I'd like to have faith in the U.S. system of justice, but I doubt the DOJ will redeem itself on this case. My only hope is Microsoft does not yet own the EC, and Europe will refuse to be bought out or bullied. That might at least slow down the Microsoft juggernaut.

Sincerely,
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